

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 A-01 PRS-01 USIA-04 DRC-01 EB-03 /052 W

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R 101055Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY THERAN

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEFTIST PRESS WIDENS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMBASSADOR -

DESIGNATE GODLEY

REF: BEIRUT 77 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: LEBANESE LEFTIST PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE GODLEY HAS INCREASED IN SCOPE AND VIRULENCEN WITH HIS
APPOINTMENT NOW BEING PORTRAYED AS PART OF WIDER US "PLOT" TO
STIFLE ARAB "NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" AND INTIMIDATE ARABS
GENERALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JAN. 5, LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN, AN NIDA, AND
PFLP WEEKLY AL HADAF JOINED CHOCUS OF LEFTIST PAPERS CALLING FOR
GOL TO WITHDRAW ITS APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S NOMINATION.
NIDA DEVOTED FRONT AND SECOND PAGES TO PLAYING UP "WIDESPREAD
DENUNCIATION BY NATIONALIST AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES" OF NEW
AMBASSADOR, "WHOSE NOTORIOUS CONNECTIONS WITH CIA HAVE
REACHED LIMITS OF IMPUDENCE". HADAF REFERRED TO "GODLEY, THE
CRIMINAL", AND BOTH PUBLICATIONS DWELT AT LENGTH ON HIS "BLOODY
ROLE" IN LAOS AND ALLEGED PARTICIPATION AT APRIL 1973 US
AMBASSADORIAL "SPY CONFERENCE" IN TEHRAN.

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2. ON HEELS OF DEPT. SPOKESMAN'S JAN. 7 STATEMENT THAT GOL HAS ALREADY APPROVED GODLEY'S NOMINATION, OTHER LEFTIST, PRO-KEDAYEEN ORGANS HASTENED TO JOIN ABOVE PAPERS AND OTHER CITED REFTEL IN CONTINUING ANTI-GODLEY CAMPAIG., ASH SHAAB SNEERED JAN. 9 THAT GODLEY'S NOMINATION SHOULD CAUSE NO SURPRISE, SINCE IT "TRULY REFLECTS REAL THINKING AND INTENTIONS OF HIS GOVT" TOWARD LEBANON AND ARABS IN GENERAL. NOTED THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR ARMIN MEYER WAS OF "SAME STRIPE, PURSUING FEDAYEEN ALL OVER WORLD", AND CASTIGATED GOL FOR CONTINUING ACCEPT SUCH DIPLOMATS "DESPITE ALL THE CATASTROPHES INFLICTED BY AMERICA ON LEBANON AND ARAB WORLD". ON JAN. 10, AL YOM PLAYED UP FRENCH PRESS STORIES OF US PREPARATIONS FOR MILITARY OPERATION TO SEIZE SAUDI OIL FIELDS, LINKED THEM WITH SO-CALLED "THREAT" MADE EARLIER THIS WEEK BY DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND CONCLUDED THAT GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT TO LEBANON IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH PLANS FOR AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ME.

3. MOST VITUPERATIVE ATTACK APPEARING TO DATE WAS CARRIED JAN. 9 IN AL ANWAR ARTICLE PENNED BY PRO-FEDAYEEN FEMALE MUCK-RAKER ALYA SOLH. PAINTING FANCIFUL PICTURE OF SINISTER US "PLOT" TO PRESERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS IN ME BY APPOINTING "IMPERIALIST ESPIONAGE AGENTS" TO AMBASSADORIAL POSTS IN LEBANON, IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, MISS SOLH ACCUSED "UNGODLY GODLEY" OF HAVING MOBILIZED ARMY OF "BANDITS AND RAPISTS" TO FOMENT ROUBLE AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY SUBVERSION IN LAOS--TO POINT WHERE THEIR "EXCESSES" AND HIS "MONSTROUS METHODS" FORCED USG TO RECALL HIM AND CONGRESS LATER TO REJECT HIS NOMINATION AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS. "NOW THAT LEBANON HAS BECOME COMBAT THEATER IN EYES OF US INTELLIGENCE, THEY SEND US THEIR TOUGH GUY, AN EXPERT ENEMY OF ANGRY AND REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES." AFTER DEMONSTRATING TO HER SATISFACTION THAT GODLEY WILL ACT AS USG'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT IN SUPPRESSING FEDAYEEN AND PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS IN LEBANON, MISS SOLH TEED OFF ON AMBASSADORS HELMS AND AKINS, WHOM SHE DESCRIBED AS "PAIR OF PINNERS WHICH AMERICA WANTS TO USE AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA". ACCORDING TO HER, USG'S OIL EMBARGO OF US HAS SO INFURIATED PRESIDENT NIXON THAT USG IS NOW "SCHEMING" TO DIVIDE SAUDI ARABIA INTO THREE PARTS, WITH OIL-RICH EASTERN PROVINCE TO BE ENTRUSTED TO SHAH OF IRAN "AFTER HE SWALLOWS UP GULF AMIRATES", NAJD TO BE PLACED UNDER "SAUDI PRINCE HOSTILE TO PRESENT RULING FAMILY", AND HEJAZ TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVERT TO HASHEMITE JORDANIAN CONTROL.

4. COMMENT: WE SHOULD NOTE THAT AGITATION AGAINST AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT HAS SO FAR BEEN CONFINED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO LEFTIST, PRO-FEDAYEEN CIRCLES HERE AND HAS NOT YET BEEN SOAKED UP BY LEBANESE PUBLIC AT LARGE. ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN HIS BACKGROUND AND PERSONALITY ON PART OF OTHER NEWSMEN, GOL OFFICIALS AND NON-LEFTIST LEBANESE, THEIR QUERIES TO

DATE WOULD INDICATE THAT SUCH INTEREST ITEMS MORE FROM NATURAL,
LEGITIMATE CURIOSITY THAN FROM BELIEF IN SENSATIONALIST
CLAP-TRAP REPORTED ABOVE.
DECON 1/9/75.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, PRESS COMMENTS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS, EXTREMISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT00343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740152/aaaabwqa.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: BEIRUT 77 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <29-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFTIST PRESS WIDENS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AMBASSADOR - DESIGNATE GODLEY
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, PFLP, (GODLEY, G MCMURTRIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005